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Mr. Isaac C. Martindale was elected Treasurer to serve for the unexpired term of the late Mr. William C. Henszey.

SEPTEMBER 30.

The President, Dr. JOSEPH LEIDY, in the chair.

Twenty-eight persons present.

A paper entitled "On the Influence of Previous Pregnancies on Offspring," by Charles Morris, was presented for publication.

Parasites of Mola rotunda.—PROF. LEIDY stated that one day during his stay at Beach Haven, N. J., while men of the life saving station were directly off shore watching the bathers in case of accident, a Sun-fish, *Mola rotunda*, approached the boat, apparently, as they supposed, sleeping. The fish, weighing nearly two hundred pounds, was readily taken without resistance. It proved to be of additional interest from the great number and variety of parasites with which it was infested. Some of these had occasioned a considerable degree of ulceration along the base of the caudal fin. Chief among them was the large Lernea, *Penella filosa*, which hung in great clusters from the root of the dorsal and other fins. They were from five to nearly seven inches long, and had the head and neck, buried in the flesh of the fish from one to three inches. To many of them were appended the curious barnacle, *Conchoderma virgata;* on one *Penella* a bunch of seven, most of which were nearly two inches long. Were also more or less profusely covered with colonies of the Hydroid Polyp, *Eucope parasitica.*

The characters of the Penella are as follows: Head compressed spheroid, ventrally thickly papillate, dorsally with a median and lateral pair of obtuse horns. Neck long and cylindrical; with 4 pairs of minute black hooks just behind the head ventrally. Thorax thicker, cylindrical, annulated. Abdomen or tail shorter, narrower and annulated: with crowded, lateral filamentary appendages branching from the base. Ovaries long and filiform. Head, neck and ovaries straw-colored; thorax, abdomen and appendages black.

In the Règne Animal of Cuvier, it says, there is in the Mediterranean a species, *Penella filosa*, seven or eight inches long, which penetrates into the flesh of the Sword-fish, the Tunny and the Sun-fish, and torments them horribly. Similar cases of the wonderful bounty of nature are frequent and remind us of the remarks of Mr. Spencer, considered more favorable to the evolutionary than to the special creation theory. While to both may be applied the question, why the amount of suffering entailed on sentient beings by parasites could not have been avoided, to the former there does not arise the question, why are they deliberately inflicted?

Of other crustacean parasites of the Sun-fish there were three. Of these one, *Cecrops Latreillii*, Leach, was attached to the gills. Six mature females were about an inch in length, and three of them had the male appended, about half the length, and had well-stocked ovaries. Three additional young females were 14 mm. long.

The other two species were attached to ulcerated surfaces at the root of the caudal fin. One of them, *Læmargus muricatus* Kroyer, of which there were four females, were from 15 to 18 mm. long.

The remaining species, nearly resembling *Læmargus*, seems to be the *Dinematura serrata* Kroyer, of which there were three females, from 6 to 7 mm. long.

Gliding on the skin, at the sides of the body of the fish, was the circular Fluke-worm, *Tristomum Rudolphianum*, of which four ranged from 16 to 20 mm. in breadth.

In the intestine was another apparently undescribed Fluke-worm, which may be named DISTOMUM PEDOCOTYLE. Of three individuals one was 20 mm. long by 0·5 mm. thick; the others were 40 to 45 mm. long and 1·5 mm. thick. The body is cylindrical, narrowest at the fore part and obtuse behind, with the ventral bothria larger than the mouth and projecting in advance to an extent equal to the body; with the skin smooth and transparent; the yellow intestine and the white and brown genitals shining through.

The soft, yellow liver was throughout pervaded with a cestoid worm, *Anthocephalus elongatus* Rudolphi. The organ looked like a bundle of tangled cotton cord packed in the hepatic substance. The larger worms were probably upward of several feet in length, but with much effort about a foot and a half of only one individual was disengaged from the liver. In the larger specimens the cystic envelope of the cephalic end appeared as a vesicle from a fourth to half an inch in diameter. When disengaged, the cephalic extremity appeared as a sausage-shaped expansion, from three-fourths to an inch long, within which was the inverted head and neck, from half to three-fourths of an inch long. The head provided with a pair of lateral oblique bothria, enclosed four thread-like proboscides armed with numerous recurved hooks.

On Helix albolabris var. *maritima*.—MR. PILSBRY exhibited specimens of *Helix* collected by Mr. Witmer Stone on the sand hills at Cape May, New Jersey. The shells, he stated, are rather ambiguous in character, but referable to *Helix* (*Mesodon*) *albolabris* as a variety which the speaker proposed to call *maritima*. The shell is smaller than that of *H. albolabris*, measuring, alt. 13, greater diam. 22, lesser 18½ mm. The surface is very distinctly and beautifully decussated by spiral and oblique lines. The base is notably swollen near the umbilicus back of the lip. The lip is much narrower than in typical *albolabris*.